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Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Report on the nineteenth session (9-13 May 2016)

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Summary

At its nineteenth session, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development discussed the role of science and technology within the context of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and reviewed the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels. In addition, it considered two priority themes, "Smart cities and infrastructure" and "Foresight for digital development" and organized panel discussions. The session also included a segment on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

Two ministerial round tables were convened during the session: one on the theme "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results"; and the other on "Review of progress made in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society outcomes". Fourteen Member States were represented at the ministerial level. Participants in the round tables also included heads or representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and representatives of civil society, business entities and technical and academic communities.

The Chair's summary (E/2016/74) of the discussion on the 2016 theme of the Council, "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results" has been transmitted to the high-level segment of the 2016 session of the Council.

During the discussions, participants recognized the instrumental role of science, technology and innovation, and information and communications technologies (ICTs) in the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals, and highlighted the role of science, technology and innovation, along with ICTs, as an enabler of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They also recognized the central role that information and communications technologies played in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development, and took note of the importance of related development policies and programmes to address various aspects of the digital divide. Likewise, participants recognized that the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality education in science, technology and mathematics at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels was essential to creating a social environment conducive to the promotion of science, technology and innovation.

Participants shared success stories, challenges and lessons learned in harnessing the potential of science, technology and innovation as a tool for stimulating inclusive and sustainable development. They recognized that the success of using technology and innovation policies was facilitated by, among other things, creating policy environments that enabled education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth. In that regard, they stressed the need for new approaches that embedded capacity-building in the areas of science, technology and innovation as crucial components of national development plans.

Accordingly, participants called upon Governments to closely link science, technology and innovation, and strategies for sustainable development by prominently featuring capacity-building in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation in national development planning. Likewise, Governments were encouraged to review progress made in

integrating science, technology and innovation in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In reviewing the progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, participants reaffirmed their commitment to the full implementation of the outcomes and the World Summit vision beyond 2015. They also highlighted the fact that the rapid growth in access to mobile technology and broadband since 2005 had meant that more than half of the world's inhabitants should have access to ICTs within their reach and make use of them by the end of 2016, in line with one of the World Summit targets. In that regard, participants welcomed the remarkable evolution and diffusion of ICTs, underpinned by the contribution of both public and private sectors, which have seen penetration in almost every corner of the globe, created new opportunities for social interaction, enabled new business models and contributed to economic growth and development in all other sectors, while they noted the unique and emerging challenges related to the evolution and diffusion of ICTs. At the same time, they noted with concern that there remained significant digital divides, such as between and within countries and between women and men, which needed to be addressed. They also noted with great concern that many developing countries lacked affordable access to ICTs and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including ICTs, remained unfulfilled. Consequently, participants emphasized the importance of promoting an inclusive information society, with particular attention given to bridging the digital divide and broadband divide, taking into account the considerations of developing countries, gender and culture, as well as youth and other underrepresented groups.

In addition, participants reiterated the importance of information and communications technology (ICT) indicators as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the digital divide among countries and within societies and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies for social, cultural and economic development. In that regard, they encouraged Member States to collect relevant data at the national level on information and ICTs, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes. They also called upon all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging the digital divide, in its different forms, an area of priority concern and urged all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that would stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband services.

In addressing the priority theme "Smart cities and infrastructure", an expert panel discussed how science, technology and innovation could contribute to achieving more inclusive and sustainable cities. Participants encouraged Governments to bring together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, mobilize resources from multiple channels and improve core ICT and support smart infrastructure as a means to promote local innovation capacities for inclusive and sustainable development. Further, they encouraged Governments to foster and support science, technology and innovation efforts leading to the development of infrastructure and policies that support the global expansion of ICT infrastructure, products and services, including broadband Internet access to all people. Finally, participants highlighted the need to address the ongoing and persistent gap in the fields of science, technology and innovation, focusing on education in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

In considering the priority theme "Foresight for digital development", the expert panel analysed foresight for policymaking on science, technology and innovation and addressed the development implications of four emerging digital developments, namely, big data and the "Internet of things"; three-dimensional printing (also known as additive manufacturing); automation of work; and massive open online courses. During the discussion participants called on Governments, individually and collectively, to put in place policies that support the development of digital ecosystems that are inclusive and take into account the socioeconomic and political context of countries. In particular in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Governments were encouraged to undertake systemic research, including foresight exercises, on new trends in science, technology and innovation, and information and communications technologies and their impact on development. Likewise, Governments were encouraged to conduct assessments of national innovation systems, including digital ecosystems, drawing from foresight exercises to identify weaknesses in the systems and make effective policy interventions to strengthen the weaker components, and share outcomes with other member States.

Under the agenda item on science, technology and innovation policy reviews, UNCTAD secretariat presented to the Commission preliminary findings from the ongoing policy reviews conducted by Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Rwanda. The review by Rwanda is prepared at the request of the Ministry of Trade and Industry and in collaboration with the National Industrial Research and Development Agency and the National Commission for Science and Technology. The review by the Iran (Islamic Republic of) is prepared in collaboration with the Government's Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

Participants exchanged views on the policy issues highlighted in the reviews, and shared their national experiences in using science, technology and innovation to promote growth and development. Participants acknowledged the usefulness of the science, technology and innovation policy reviews. Several countries expressed their interest in starting such policy reviews, and others encouraged UNCTAD to seek funding proactively for the reviews. The agenda item on the policy reviews concluded with a presentation by UNCTAD on the "Innovation policy learning component of its training programme.

The Commission adopted two draft resolutions, entitled "Science, technology and innovation for development" and "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society".

The Commission selected "New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals" and "The role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030" as the priority themes for consideration at its twentieth session. The Commission will identify and consider specific aspects of the themes at the forthcoming meeting of the intersessional panel, in cooperation with experts.

Further information on the session of the Commission is available from www.unctad.org/cstd.

[3 June 2016]

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolutions for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

Recalling further its resolution 2015/26 of 22 July 2015 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015 entitled "Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society", in which the Assembly reaffirmed the World Summit vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, assessed progress made to date, identified gaps and challenges and made recommendations for the future,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 70/184 of 22 December 2015 on information and communications technologies for development,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels,[2]

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to ensure completion of the aforementioned report in a timely manner,

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* For the discussion, see chapter II.

[1] See A/C.2/59/3 and A/60/687.

[2] A/71/67-E/2016/51.

Taking stock: reviewing the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

1. *Welcomes and urges* the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/125;

2. *Welcomes* the constructive and diverse inputs from all stakeholders in the overall review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society;

3. *Reaffirms* its commitment to the full implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and the vision of the 10-year review of the World Summit beyond 2015;

4. *Encourages* close alignment between the World Summit process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] as called for in General Assembly resolution 70/125, highlighting the cross-cutting contribution of information and communications technology to the Sustainable Development Goals and poverty eradication, and noting that access to information and communications technologies has also become a development indicator and aspiration in and of itself;

5. *Reaffirms* that one of the goals of the 2030 Agenda is to significantly increase access to information and communications technology;

6. *Welcomes* the remarkable evolution and diffusion of information and communications technologies, underpinned by the contributions of both the public and private sectors, which have seen penetration into almost all corners of the globe, created new opportunities for social interaction, enabled new business models, and contributed to economic growth and development in all other sectors, while noting the unique and emerging challenges related to their evolution and diffusion;

7. *Notes with concern* that there are still significant digital divides, such as between and within countries and between women and men, which need to be addressed through, among other actions, strengthened enabling policy environments and international cooperation to improve affordability, access, education, capacity-building, multilingualism, cultural preservation, investment and appropriate financing, acknowledges that a gender divide exists as part of the digital divides, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of women in the information society and women's access to new technologies, especially information and communications technologies for development;

8. *Notes* the ongoing implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, emphasizing, in particular, its multi-stakeholder nature, the roles played in this regard by leading agencies as action line facilitators and the roles of the regional commissions and the United Nations Group on the Information Society, and expresses its appreciation for the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in assisting the Economic and Social Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the World Summit;

9. *Recognizes* the value and principle of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the World Summit on the Information Society process since its inception and that are clearly recognized in the 2030 Agenda, and notes that many activities that support the objectives of the World Summit and the

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

Sustainable Development Goals are being implemented by Governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, academic and technical communities and multi-stakeholder partnerships in their respective roles and responsibilities;

10. *Takes note* of the reports of many United Nations entities, with their respective executive summaries, submitted as input for the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission and published on the website of the Commission as mandated in Council resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007, and recalls the importance of close coordination among the leading action line facilitators and with the secretariat of the Commission;

11. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional level facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels, including the steps taken in this respect, and emphasizes the need to continue to address issues of specific interest to each region, focusing on the challenges and obstacles that each may be facing with regard to the implementation of all goals and principles established by the World Summit, with particular attention to information and communications technology for development;

12. *Reiterates* the importance of maintaining a process of coordinating the multi-stakeholder implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit through effective tools, with the goal of exchanging information among action line facilitators, identifying issues that need improvement and discussing the modalities of reporting on the overall implementation process, encourages all stakeholders to continue to contribute information to the stocktaking database maintained by the International Telecommunication Union on the implementation of the goals established by the World Summit, and invites United Nations entities to update information on their initiatives in the stocktaking database;

13. *Highlights* the urgent need for the incorporation of the recommendations contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit in the revised guidelines for United Nations country teams on preparing the common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, including the addition of an information and communications technology for development component, for which the United Nations Group on the Information Society has offered its assistance;

14. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 60/252 of 27 March 2006, in which the Assembly requested the Council to oversee the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis phases of the World Summit;[1]

15. *Recalls* that, in its resolution 70/125, the General Assembly called for continuation of the annual reports on the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the Council, and reaffirms the role of the Commission, as set forth in Council resolution 2006/46, in assisting the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up, in particular the review and assessment of progress made in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit;

16. *Calls upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps to avoid and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with

international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

17. *Welcomes* the fact that the rapid growth in access to mobile telephony and broadband since 2005 has meant that more than half of the world's inhabitants should have access to information and communications technologies within their reach and make use of them by the end of 2016, in line with one of the World Summit targets, the value of this progress being enhanced by the advent of new services and applications, including m-health, m-agriculture, mobile transactions, m-government, e-government, e-learning, e-business and development services, which offer great potential for the development of the information society;

18. *Notes with great concern* that many developing countries lack affordable access to information and communications technologies and that, for the majority of the poor, the promise of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, remains unfulfilled, and emphasizes the need to effectively harness technology, including information and communications technologies, to bridge the digital and knowledge divides;

19. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies present new opportunities and challenges and that there is a pressing need to address the major impediments that developing countries face in accessing the new technologies, such as an appropriate enabling environment, sufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment and connectivity, as well as issues related to technology ownership, standards and flows, and in this regard calls upon all stakeholders to provide adequate resources, enhanced capacity-building and the transfer of technology and knowledge to developing countries particularly the least developed countries;

20. *Also recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and underscores the need to urgently address the growing digital divides in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between and within high-, middle- and low-income countries and other regions, with special emphasis on supporting the least developed countries, small island developing States and Africa as a continent;

21. *Further recognizes* that the transition to a mobile-led communications environment is leading to significant changes in operators' business models and that it requires significant rethinking of the ways in which individuals and communities make use of networks and devices, of government strategies and of ways in which communications networks can be used to achieve development objectives;

22. *Recognizes* that, even with all the developments and the improvement observed in some respects, in numerous developing countries information and communications technologies and their applications are still not available to or affordable for the majority of people, particularly those living in rural areas;

23. *Also recognizes* that the number of Internet users is growing and that, in some instances, the digital and knowledge divides are also changing in character from one based on whether access is available to one based on the quality of access, information and skills that users can obtain and the value that they can derive from it, and recognizes in this regard that there is a need to prioritize the use of information and communications technologies through innovative approaches,

including multi-stakeholder approaches, within national and regional development strategies;

24. *Takes note* of the global report of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, entitled *The State of Broadband 2015: Broadband as a Foundation for Sustainable Development*, and notes with interest the continuous efforts of the Broadband Commission in promoting high-level advocacy for the establishment of an enabling environment for broadband connectivity, in particular through national broadband plans and public-private partnerships for ensuring that the development agenda challenges are met with appropriate impact and in conjunction with all stakeholders;

25. *Reaffirms* the commitment made in General Assembly resolution 70/125 to close the digital divides between and within countries, including the gender digital divide, through efforts to improve connectivity, affordability, multilingual content, digital skills and digital literacy, acknowledging specific challenges facing persons with disabilities and specific needs, and groups in vulnerable situations;

26. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to pay particular attention to the unique and emerging information and communications technology challenges facing all countries, in particular developing countries, as envisaged in the relevant paragraphs of resolution 70/125;

27. *Notes* that, while a solid foundation for capacity-building in information and communications technology has been laid in many areas with regard to building the information society, there is still a need for continuing efforts to address the ongoing challenges, especially for developing countries and the least developed countries, and draws attention to the positive impact of broadened capacity development that involves institutions, organizations and entities dealing with information and communications technologies and Internet governance issues;

28. *Recognizes* the need to focus on capacity development policies and sustainable support to further enhance the impact of activities and initiatives at the national and local levels aimed at providing advice, services and support with a view to building an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society;

29. *Notes* that topics continue to emerge, such as e-environment applications and the contribution of information and communications technologies to early warning, mitigating climate change, social networking, virtualization and cloud computing and services, mobile Internet and mobile-based services, cybersecurity, the gender gap, the protection of online privacy and the empowerment and protection, especially against cyberexploitation and abuse, of vulnerable groups of society, in particular children and young people;

30. *Reaffirms* that in the outcomes of the overall review related to the implementation of the World Summit action lines, the General Assembly called for the World Summit on the Information Society Forum to be held annually, the most recent Forum having been held in Geneva from 2 to 6 May 2016, as a platform for discussion and sharing of best practices in the implementation of the World Summit outcomes by all stakeholders;

31. *Encourages* action line facilitators to use the Geneva Plan of Action as the framework for identifying practical measures to use ICTs to help achieve the

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, noting the WSIS-Sustainable Development Goals Matrix, developed by the UN Agencies, and further encourages these entities to ensure close alignment to the 2030 Agenda when considering new work to implement the outcomes of the WSIS, according to their existing mandates and resources;

32. *Reiterates* the importance of the call by the General Assembly for all stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies into approaches to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and its request to United Nations entities facilitating the World Summit on the Information Society action lines to review their reporting and workplans to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

Internet governance

33. *Reaffirms* that the outcomes of the World Summit related to Internet governance, namely, the process towards enhanced cooperation and the convening of the Internet Governance Forum, are to be pursued by the Secretary-General through two distinct processes, and recognizes that the two processes may be complementary;

34. *Also reaffirms* paragraphs 34 to 37 and 67 to 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;[4]

35. *Further reaffirms* paragraphs 55 to 65 of General Assembly resolution 70/125;

Enhanced cooperation

36. *Recognizes* the importance of enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable Governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not have an impact on international public policy issues;

37. *Notes* the proposal by the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the structure and composition of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/125;

38. *Recommends*, bearing in mind past practice, that the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation, in deciding on its methods of work, should consider ensuring transparency, inclusiveness and diversity of views, including by being open to the active participation of all member States and observer States of the Commission and representatives of other relevant stakeholders, and should aim to adopt its report and recommendations by consensus, reflecting different options and opinions, if necessary;

Internet Governance Forum

39. *Recognizes* the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected

[4] A/60/687.

in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, including discussion on public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance;

40. *Recalls* the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/125, to extend the Internet Governance Forum mandate for a further 10 years, during which the Forum should continue to show progress on working modalities and the participation of relevant stakeholders from developing countries;

41. *Recognizes* that national and regional Internet Governance Forum initiatives have emerged, taking place in all regions and addressing Internet governance issues of relevance and priority to the organizing country or region;

42. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 70/125, in which the Assembly called upon the Commission, within its regular reporting, to give due consideration to fulfilment of the recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission;

43. *Notes* the holding of the tenth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, hosted by the Government of Brazil in João Pessoa from 10 to 13 November 2015, under the theme "Evolution of Internet governance: empowering sustainable development";

44. *Welcomes* the holding of the eleventh meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, to be hosted by the Government of Mexico from 6 to 9 December 2016 in Guadalajara, under the theme "Enabling inclusive and sustainable growth", and notes that, in the preparatory process for the meeting, recommendations contained in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum are being taken into consideration;

45. *Welcomes*, in that context, the continuous progress made with regard to the intersessional work of the Internet Governance Forum in the different modalities of connecting the next billion online, dynamic coalitions and best practice forums, as well as the contributions being made by both national and regional Internet governance forums;

The road ahead

46. *Calls upon* United Nations entities to continue to actively cooperate in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit through the United Nations system, to take the necessary steps and commit to a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society and to catalyse the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

47. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to keep the goal of bridging the digital divides, in their different forms, an area of priority concern, to put into effect sound strategies that contribute to the development of e-government and to continue to focus on pro-poor information and communications technology policies and applications, including access to broadband at the grass-roots level, with a view to narrowing the digital divides among and within countries;

48. *Urges* all stakeholders to prioritize the development of innovative approaches that will stimulate the provision of universal access to affordable broadband infrastructure for developing countries and the use of relevant broadband

services in order to ensure the development of an inclusive, development-oriented and people-centred information society, and to minimize the digital divides;

49. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations to continue to assess and report on a regular basis on the universal accessibility of nations to information and communications technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communications technology sectors of developing countries;

50. *Urges* all countries to make concrete efforts to fulfil their commitments under the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[5]

51. *Reiterates* the importance of information and communications technology indicators as a monitoring and evaluation tool for measuring the digital divide among countries and within societies and in informing decision makers when formulating policies and strategies for social, cultural and economic development, and emphasizes that the standardization and harmonization of reliable and regularly updated indicators capturing the performance, efficiency, affordability and quality of goods and services are essential for implementing information and communications technology policies;

52. *Acknowledges* the importance of digital monitoring tools that support the deployment and measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

53. *Reiterates* the importance of sharing best practices at the global level, and, while recognizing excellence in the implementation of the projects and initiatives that further the goals of the World Summit, encourages all stakeholders to nominate their projects for the annual World Summit project prizes as an integral part of the World Summit stocktaking process, while taking note of the report on the World Summit success stories;

54. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums, in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit, to periodically review the methodologies for information and communications technology indicators, taking into account different levels of development and national circumstances, and therefore:

(a) *Encourages* Member States to collect relevant data at the national level on information and communications technologies, to share information about country case studies and to collaborate with other countries in capacity-building exchange programmes;

(b) *Encourages* United Nations organizations and other relevant organizations and forums to promote assessment of the impact of information and communications technologies on sustainable development;

(c) *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development and the annual *Measuring the Information Society Report*, which provides recent trends and statistics on access to and the affordability of information and communications technologies and the evolution of the information and knowledge societies

[5] General Assembly resolution 69/313.

worldwide, including the Information and Communications Technology Development Index;

(d) *Encourages* the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technology for Development to follow up on Statistical Commission decision 47/110 of 11 March 2016, on information and communications technology statistics,[6] and recommends in that context that the Partnership develop guidance to improve cooperation with the different stakeholders for the purposes of producing high quality and timely information and communications technology statistics and of leveraging the potential benefits of using big data for official statistics;

(e) *Notes* the holding, in Hiroshima, Japan, from 30 November to 2 December 2015, of the thirteenth World Telecommunication/Information and Communications Technology Indicators Symposium;

55. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the review and assessment work of the Commission regarding follow-up to the World Summit, while acknowledging with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Finland, Switzerland and the United States of America to this fund;

56. *Recalls* the decision of the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/125, to hold a high-level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2025;

57. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General and the related discussion of the Commission at its nineteenth session;

58. *Emphasizes* the importance of promoting an inclusive information society, with particular attention to bridging the digital and broadband divides, taking into account the considerations of developing countries, gender and culture, as well as youth and other underrepresented groups.

[6] *Official records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 11* (E/2016/24), chap. I, sect. B.

Draft resolution II
Science, technology and innovation for development*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development,

Recognizing also the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation in building and maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy, addressing global challenges and realizing sustainable development,

Recognizing further the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1] in which it was recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,

Recalling also that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recognizing that the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/220 of 20 December 2013 on science, technology and innovation for development, encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies,

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2011/235 of 26 July 2011 providing for the extension, until 2015, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission, as well as General Assembly resolutions 66/129 of 19 December 2011 and 66/211 and 66/216 of 22 December 2011 addressing, respectively, the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas, barriers to equal access for women and girls to science and technology, and the integration of a gender perspective into development policies and programmes,

Taking note of the importance for science, technology and innovation development policies and programmes to address various aspects of the digital divide,

Recognizing that the availability, accessibility and affordability of quality education in science, technology and mathematics at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels is essential in order to create a social environment conducive to the promotion of science, technology and innovation,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development",

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

[1] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recognizing the instrumental role of science, technology and innovation, and information and communications technologies in the achievement of a number of Sustainable Development Goals, and highlighting the role of science, technology and innovation, along with information and communications technologies, as an enabler of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[2] to continue to address global challenges,

Taking note of resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and noting the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement and decision 1/CP.21 adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[3] held in Paris, from 30 November to 11 December 2015,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 70/125 of 16 December 2015 on the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, "Smart cities and infrastructure" and "Foresight for digital development",

Recognizing the need for new approaches that embed capacity-building in the areas of science, technology and innovation as a crucial component of national development plans, inter alia, through collaboration between the relevant ministries and regulatory bodies,

Recognizing that technology foresight exercises could help policymakers and stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the identification of challenges and opportunities that can be addressed strategically, and that technology trends should be analysed, keeping in view the wider socioeconomic context,

Recognizing also that well-developed innovation and digital ecosystems[4] play a fundamental role in the effective digital development and facilitation of science, technology and innovation,

Recognizing further the increased regional integration efforts across the world and the associated regional dimension of science, technology and innovation issues,

Noting the significant achievements and continuing potential contribution of science, technology and innovation, and information and communications technologies, to human welfare, economic prosperity and employment,

Noting also that the success of using technology and innovation policies at the national level is facilitated by, among other things, creating policy environments

[2] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[3] See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1.

[4] The digital ecosystem involves components such as technological infrastructure, data infrastructure, financial infrastructure, institutional infrastructure and human infrastructure.

that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest and transform science, technology and innovation into employment and economic growth incorporating all interrelated elements, including knowledge transfer,

Noting further various ongoing and future initiatives related to science, technology and innovation, to explore important issues associated with the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recommends the following for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(a) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to consider taking the following actions:

(i) To closely link science, technology, innovation and strategies of sustainable development by prominently featuring capacity-building in information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation in national development planning;

(ii) To promote local innovation capabilities for inclusive and sustainable economic development by bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, mobilizing resources from multiple channels, improving core information and communications technology and supporting smart infrastructure, including through collaboration with and among national programmes;

(iii) To encourage and support the science, technology and innovation efforts leading to the development of infrastructure and policies that support the global expansion of information and communications technology infrastructure, products and services, including broadband Internet access to all people, catalysing multi-stakeholder efforts to bring 1.5 billion new Internet users online by 2020 and endeavouring to improve the affordability of such services;

(iv) To undertake systemic research, including foresight exercises, on new trends in science, technology and innovation, and information and communications technologies and their impact on development, particularly in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[2]

(v) To work, with input from a variety of stakeholders, including appropriate United Nations agencies, to formulate, adopt and implement science, technology and innovation policies aimed at contributing to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(vi) To use strategic foresight exercises to identify potential gaps in education for the medium and long term and address such gaps with a policy mix, including the promotion of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and vocational training;

(vii) To use strategic foresight as a process to encourage structured debate among all stakeholders, including representatives of Government, science, industry and civil society and the private sector, particularly small and

medium-sized enterprises, towards creating a shared understanding of long-term issues and building consensus on future policies;

(viii) To undertake strategic foresight initiatives on global and regional challenges at regular intervals and cooperate towards the establishment of a mapping system to review and share technology foresight outcomes, including pilot projects, with other Member States, making use of existing regional mechanisms, and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders;

(ix) To encourage the review of progress on integrating science, technology and innovation in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(x) To conduct assessments of national innovation systems, including digital ecosystems, drawing from foresight exercises, at regular intervals, to identify weaknesses in the systems and make effective policy interventions to strengthen their weaker components, and share outcomes with other Member States;

(xi) To recognize the need to promote the functional dynamics of innovation systems and other relevant methodologies based on diversified policy instruments to support science, technology and innovation development priorities, in order to strengthen the coherence of such systems for sustainable development;

(xii) To encourage digital natives to play a key role in a community-based approach to science, technology and innovation capacity-building, and facilitate the use of information and communications technologies in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(xiii) To put in place policies that support the development of digital ecosystems, bearing in mind the potential of emerging digital technologies to leapfrog existing technologies for development, that are inclusive and take into account the socioeconomic and political context of countries and attract and support private investment and innovation, particularly encouraging the development of local content and entrepreneurship;

(xiv) To collaborate with all relevant stakeholders, promote the application of information and communications technologies in all sectors, improve environmental sustainability and encourage the creation of suitable facilities to recycle and dispose of e-waste;

(xv) To address the ongoing and persistent gender gap in the fields of science, technology and innovation as a whole, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in particular, by encouraging mentoring and supporting other efforts to attract and retain women and girls in those fields;

(xvi) To support the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science and technology through North-South and South-South cooperation by encouraging financial and technical assistance, capacity-building, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions and technical training programmes or courses;

(b) The Commission is encouraged:

(i) To continue its role as a torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation and to provide high-level advice to the Economic and Social

Council and the General Assembly on relevant science, technology, engineering and innovation issues;

(ii) To help to articulate the important role of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation as enablers in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by acting as a forum for strategic planning and providing foresight about critical trends in science, technology and innovation in key sectors of the economy and drawing attention to emerging and disruptive technologies;

(iii) To consider how its work aligns with, feeds into and complements other international forums on science, technology and innovation and efforts supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(iv) To raise awareness and facilitate networking and partnerships among various technology foresight organizations and networks, in collaboration with other stakeholders;

(v) To promote, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development, including capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions;

(vi) To raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation, with special attention being placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries;

(vii) To proactively strengthen and revitalize global science, technology and innovation partnerships for sustainable development, which would entail the engagement of the Commission in (a) translating technology foresight into elaborating the scope of specific international projects for targeted research, technology development and deployment and initiatives for building human resource capacity for science, technology and innovation; and (b) exploring innovative financing models and other resources contributing to enhancing the capacities of developing countries in collaborative projects and initiatives in science, technology and innovation;

(viii) To discuss and explore innovative financing models as a means to attract new stakeholders, innovators and sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based solutions, in collaboration with other organizations, where appropriate;

(ix) To promote capacity-building and cooperation in research and development, in collaboration with relevant institutions, including appropriate United Nations agencies, working to facilitate the strengthening of innovation systems that support innovators, particularly in developing countries, to boost their efforts to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;

(x) To provide a forum for sharing best practices, the results of foresight exercises, successful local innovation models, case studies and experience on the use of science, technology and engineering for innovation, including the application of new emerging technologies, in symbiotic relationship with information and communications technologies, for inclusive and sustainable

development, and to share findings with all relevant United Nations entities including through the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and its multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation;

(xi) To continue to play an active role in creating awareness of the potential contribution of science, technology and innovation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through substantive inputs, as appropriate, to relevant processes and bodies of the United Nations, and to share findings and good practices on science, technology and innovation among Member States and beyond;

(xii) To highlight the importance of the work of the Commission related to the implementation of and follow-up to the areas of information and communications technologies and science, technology and innovation related to the Sustainable Development Goals, with the Chair of the Commission to report at appropriate reviews and meetings of the Economic and Social Council, taking into account that 2016 is the first year of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(c) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is encouraged:

(i) To seek funding proactively for the expansion of science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with an emphasis on the critical role of information and communications technologies in empowering science, technology and innovation and engineering capacity-building and utilization, and the implementation of the recommendations on those reviews, as appropriate, in close cooperation with United Nations agencies and international organizations;

(ii) To look into the feasibility of including elements of strategic foresight and digital ecosystem assessment in policy reviews of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies, possibly by including a chapter dedicated to these themes;

(iii) To plan for periodic updates on progress made in countries for which science, technology and innovation policy reviews have been performed and to invite those countries to report to the Commission on progress made, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementing recommendations;

(iv) To encourage the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission to provide inputs to the policy deliberations and documentation of the Commission, to report on progress at the annual sessions of the Commission and to better integrate gender perspectives into science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Commission also recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its nineteenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twentieth session of the Commission*

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its nineteenth session;[1]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the twentieth session of the Commission as set out below.

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

3. Science and technology for development: priority themes:

   (a) New innovation approaches to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

   (b) Role of science, technology and innovation in ensuring food security by 2030.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twenty-first session of the Commission.

6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-first session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twentieth session.

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* For the discussion, see chaps. VI and VII.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 11* (E/2016/31).

Chapter II

Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels

3. The Commission considered agenda item 2 at its 2nd to 4th meetings, on 9 and 10 May, and at its 8th meeting, on 13 May 2016. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/71/67-E/2016/51);

(b) Summary report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on the intersessional panel meeting held in Budapest from 11 to 13 January 2016 (E/CN.16/2016/CRP.1);

4. At the 2nd meeting, on 9 May, the Chief of the Science, Technology and ICT Branch, Division on Technology and Logistics of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) introduced the report of the Secretary-General.

Ministerial round table on the theme "Review of progress made in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society outcomes"

5. Also at the 2nd meeting, on 9 May, the Commission held a ministerial round table on the theme "Review of progress made in the implementation of World Summit on the Information Society outcomes", which was moderated by the Permanent Representative of Latvia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Jānis Kārkliņš, who also made introductory remarks. The following participated: Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology and Research, Sri Lanka, Susil Premajayantha; Ambassador, Ministry of External Relations, Brazil, Benedicto Fonseca Filho; Chief of Strategic Planning, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Doreen Bogdan-Martin; Director General of Information, Ministry of Communications, Cuba, Ernesto Rodríguez Hernández; Director, Federal Office of Communications, Switzerland, Phillip Metzger; Director, Knowledge Societies Division, Communication and Information Sector, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Indrajit Banerjee; Chair, Committee on Digital Economy Policy, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Jørgen Abild Andersen; and Executive Director, Department of Policy and Business Practices, International Chamber of Commerce, Stefano Bertasi.

6. An interactive dialogue ensued with the delegations of Hungary, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, Mexico, Turkey and the Dominican Republic, and by the observers of Nepal, South Africa and Morocco.

7. The following non-governmental organizations also took part in the interactive dialogue: Association for Progressive Communications; Internet Society; and Village Suisse.

8. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 10 May, the Commission held its general discussion on the item and heard introductory remarks by the Chair (Hungary).

9. At the 3rd meeting, on 10 May, presentations were made by the following: Managing Director, ICT Development Associates, David Souter; Chief Executive Officer, LirneAsia, Helani Galpaya; Chief of Innovation Section, Technology for Development Division, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Nibal Idlebi; Board member of Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, Markus Kummer; International Fellow in the Media Change and Innovation Division, Institute of Mass Communication and Media Research, University of Zurich, Switzerland, William Drake; Executive Director, Association for Progressive Communications, Anriette Esterhuysen; and Programme and Technology Manager, Internet Governance Forum, Chengetai Masango.

10. At the 4th meeting, on 10 May, statements were made by the representatives of Brazil, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Kingdom and Austria (on behalf of the European Union), China, Chile, the Russian Federation, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Austria, Sweden, the United States, Germany and Pakistan, and by the observers for Saudi Arabia, Egypt and South Africa.

11. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers; International Chamber of Commerce; and Internet Society.

Action taken by the Commission

Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

12. At its 8th meeting, on 13 May, the Commission had before it a draft resolution on assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations and circulated in an informal paper in English only.

13. At the same meeting, the facilitator of the draft resolution, Michael Walma (Canada), made a statement.

14. Also at the 8th meeting, the Secretary of the Commission provided clarification with regard to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

15. At the same meeting, the observer for Saudi Arabia made a statement.

16. The Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

Chapter III
Science and technology for development

Priority themes:

(a) **Smart cities and infrastructure**

(b) **Foresight for digital development**

17. The Commission considered agenda item 3 at its 1st, 5th, 6th and 8th meetings, on 9, 11 and 13 May. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on smart cities and infrastructure (E/CN.16/2016/2 and Corr.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on foresight for digital development (E/CN.16/2016/3);

(c) Report on the intersessional panel meeting, held in Budapest from 11 to 19 January 2016 (E/CN.16/2016/CRP.1).

Ministerial round table on the theme "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results"

18. At its 1st meeting, on 9 May, the Commission held a ministerial round table on the 2016 theme of the Council, "Implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results", which was moderated by the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD, who also made introductory remarks.

19. At the same meeting, the following participated: Minister of Infrastructure, Science and Technology, Botswana, Nonofo Molefhi; Vice-Minister, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dominican Republic, Plácido Gómez Ramírez; Minister Delegate to the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research and the Training of Executives, Morocco, Jamila El Mossali; Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology and Research, Sri Lanka, Susil Premajayantha; Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Europe, Christian Friis Bach; Head, Directorate of Education and Human Resources, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and Chair, Gender Advisory Board, Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Shirley Malcom; State Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunication, Ethiopia, Afework Kassu; Science and Technology Advisor to the Secretary of State, United States of America, Vaughan Turekian; State Secretary, Ministry for Strategic Development and Nordic Cooperation, Sweden, Maja Fjaestad; Federal Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Pakistan, Fazal Abbas Maken; Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Robert Glasser; Minister, Ministry of Education, Sports, Science and Technology, Uganda, Jessica Alupo; Assistant Secretary-General, The Research Council, Oman, Fahad Bin Al Julanda Al Said; Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, François Xavier Ngarambe; and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, Andrew Kihurani.

20. Also at the 1st meeting, the moderator made concluding remarks.

21. At the same meeting, the Commission agreed to transmit to the Council during its high-level segment, to be held from 18 to 22 July 2016, the Chair's summary of the discussion on the 2016 theme of the Council (E/2016/74).

Panel discussion on science and technology for development

22. At the 5th meeting, on 11 May, the representative of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development introduced the report of the Secretary-General on smart cities and infrastructure (E/CN.16/2016/2).

23. At the same meeting, the Commission held a panel discussion on the priority theme "Smart cities and infrastructure", moderated by the Vice-Chair (Uganda). Presentations were made by the following: Deputy Director, ICT, Kampala Capital City Authority, Martin Ssekajja; Commissioner and Chief Information Officer, Department of Innovation and Technology, City of Chicago, Brenna Berman; Senior Lecturer, School of Geography, University of Leeds, Ayona Datta; and Co-Founder, Smart Urbanism Limited, and Visiting Professor, Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis, University College London, Kelvin Campbell.

24. In the discussion, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, India, Austria, Thailand, China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Chile, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, Poland and Oman.

25. Statements were also made by the representatives of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Economic Commission for Europe.

Action taken by the Commission

Science, technology and innovation for development

26. At its 8th meeting, on 13 May, the Commission had before it a draft resolution on science, technology and innovation for development, submitted by the Vice-Chair, Plácido Gómez Ramírez (Dominican Republic), on the basis of informal consultations, and circulated in English only.

27. A statement was made by the facilitator of the draft resolution, Mr. Gómez Ramírez.

28. The Secretary of the Commission provided clarification with regard to the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

29. The Commission adopted the draft resolution and recommended it to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

Draft decision proposed by the Chair

30. At its 8th meeting, on 13 May, on the proposal of the Chair, the Commission decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on smart cities and infrastructure (E/CN.16/2016/2 and Corr.1) and the report of the Secretary-General on foresight for digital development (E/CN.16/2016/3).

Chapter IV

Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews

31. The Commission considered agenda item 4 at its 4th meeting, on 10 May.

Presentation of the progress report on the science, technology and innovation policy of Rwanda

32. A presentation was made by the representative of the UNCTAD secretariat.

33. Statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Zambia, Kenya and Nigeria, and by the observers for Rwanda, Ethiopia, Botswana and Senegal.

34. Statements were also made by the representatives of UNESCO and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

Presentation of the progress report on the science, technology and innovation policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

35. A presentation was made by the representative of the UNCTAD secretariat.

36. Statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Uganda, Pakistan, Thailand, Turkey and China.

37. Statements were also made by the representatives of ITU and UNESCO.

Chapter V

Election of the Chair and other officers for the twentieth session of the Commission

38. The Commission considered agenda item 5 at its 8th meeting, on 13 May.

39. The Commission elected by acclamation the following officers for its twentieth session:

Vice-Chairs:

A. Min **Tjoa** (Austria)
Benedicto **Fonseca Filho** (Brazil)
Peter **Major** (Hungary)
Joseph Noël Etienne Ghislain **Sinatambou** (Mauritius)

40. The Commission postponed the election of the Chair from the Asia-Pacific States.

41. The Commission also postponed the election of the Rapporteur to its twentieth session.

Chapter VI

Provisional agenda and documentation for the twentieth session of the Commission

42. The Commission considered agenda item 6 at its 8th meeting, on 13 May. It had before it an informal paper containing the draft provisional agenda and documentation for its twentieth session.

43. A statement was made by the Chair.

44. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, the United States, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Canada, Latvia, Peru, Austria, Turkey and Mauritius.

45. The Commission approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its twentieth session and recommended it to the Council for adoption (see chap. I, sect. B).

Chapter VII
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its nineteenth session

46. At its 8th meeting, on 13 May, the Commission had before it the draft report on its nineteenth session (E/CN.16/2016/L.1).

47. The Rapporteur, A. Min Tjoa (Austria), introduced the draft report.

48. Statements were made by the representatives of Cuba and Pakistan, and by the observer for Saudi Arabia.

49. The Commission adopted the draft report on its nineteenth session and entrusted the Rapporteur with its completion.

Chapter VIII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

50. The Commission held its nineteenth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 9 to 13 May 2016. The Commission held eight meetings (1st to 8th).

51. The session was opened by the Chair, Peter Major (Hungary), who made an opening statement.

52. At the 1st meeting, on 9 May, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development made a statement.

53. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union, Houlin Zhao, and the Secretary General, International Council for Science, Gordon McBean, addressed the Commission.

B. Attendance

54. The session was attended by representatives of 43 States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and representatives of civil society and business entities also attended. The list of participants for the session is contained in document E/CN.16/2016/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

55. At the 8th meeting of its eighteenth session, on 8 May 2015, the Commission had elected by acclamation the following as members of the Bureau of its nineteenth session:

Chair:

Peter **Major** (Hungary)

Vice-Chairs:

Maxwell **Otim Onapa** (Uganda)
A. Min **Tjoa** (Austria)

56. At the 1st meeting of the nineteenth session of the Commission, on 9 May 2016, the Vice Minister for Science and Technology of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Dominican Republic), Plácido Gómez Ramírez, was elected to serve as Vice-Chair.

57. At the same meeting, the Commission appointed A. Min Tjoa (Austria) to serve, in addition to serving as Vice-Chair, as Rapporteur of the nineteenth session of the Commission.

D. Agenda and organization of work

58. At its 1st meeting, on 9 May, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.16/2016/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.
3. Science and technology for development:

   Priority themes:

   (a) Smart cities and infrastructure;

   (b) Foresight for digital development.
4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.
5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the twentieth session of the Commission.
6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the twentieth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its nineteenth session.

59. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the proposed organization of work, as contained in an informal paper circulated in English only.

60. Also at the same meeting, the Commission appointed Plácido Gómez Ramírez, (Dominican Republic) to facilitate the draft resolution on science and technology for development and Michael Walma (Canada) to facilitate the draft resolution on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.

E. Documentation

61. The list of documents before the Commission at its nineteenth session is contained in annex I to the present report.

Annex

List of documents before the Commission at its nineteenth session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.16/2016/1	1	Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work
A/71/67-E/2015/50	2	Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels
E/CN.16/2016/2 and Corr.1	3 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on smart cities and infrastructure
E/CN.16/2016/3	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on foresight for digital development
E/CN.16/2016/L.1	7	Draft report of the Commission on its nineteenth session
E/CN.16/2016/CRP.1	2	Report of the intersessional panel meeting (11-13 January 2016)
E/CN.16/2016/INF/1		List of participants

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